

MEMORANDUM FOR TREASURY CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS

DATE: June 3, 1997

FROM: Jim Flyzik
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary (Information Systems)
and Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Treasury's Year 2000 Date Standard Policy

There has been some discussion recently in a number of forums regarding a standard for the Year 2000 date conversion effort. Among these was the Federal CIO Council's Year 2000 Subcommittee which, in 1996, adopted the NIST standard that was issued as a highly recommended change for data interchanges among U. S. Government agencies. However, subsequent to this action, the Year 2000 Subcommittee backed away from this position, in part to accommodate some of the concerns of the member agencies represented on the Subcommittee.

After further discussion with my staff, there clearly is a need for a Treasury date standard for the exchange of data to accommodate the Year 2000. Therefore, for all bureau external data interchanges, both within the Federal Government and with private sector data exchange partners, Treasury shall use the following date standards:

- , an 8-position date field when using the Gregorian date format; the eight characters (YYYYMMDD) must be contiguous and the 4-position year segment must be at the beginning of the date field,
- , a 4-position year when using the Julian date format; the date field would be represented as YYYYDDD,
- , a 4-position year when using the Epoch/Offset date format where the Epoch (year segment) contains four characters and the Offset is a time element determined by the system owner, and
- , a 4-position year shall be used in conjunction with all other date formats and the other segments of the date field.

Several Treasury bureaus have already implemented this data exchange policy with their external business partners. If there are specific circumstances where this policy is unworkable, then a

system-specific request for non-compliant interfaces must be forwarded to my office. The request will be evaluated and a determination made to either grant or deny the request. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Drew on (202) 622-1512.

cc: Steve App
John Murphy
Bureau Year 2000 Executives
Treasury CIOs
Treasury CFOs